CLAIMS

1. A three dimensional inspection system for inspecting ball array devices having a plurality of balls, wherein the ball array device is positioned in an optical system, the inspection system comprising:

a) an illuminator located to illuminate at least one ball on the ball array device;

b) a sensor;

c) a first optical element positioned to transmit light to the sensor;

d) a second optical element positioned to direct light from the at least one ball to the sensor, where the sensor, the first optical element and the second optical element cooperate to obtain at least two differing views of the at least one ball, the sensor providing an output representing the at least two differing views; and

e) a processor, coupled to receive the output, where the processor processes the output by using a triangulation method to calculate a three dimensional position of the at least one ball with reference to a pre-calculated calibration plane.

2. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the calibration plane comprises a coordinate system having X, Y and Z axes and wherein an X measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

3. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the calibration plane comprises a coordinate system having X, Y and Z axes and wherein an XY measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

4. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the calibration plane comprises a coordinate system having X, Y and Z axes and wherein a Y measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

5. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the triangulation calculations are based on determining a center of the ball in a first view and determining a ball top location in a second view.

6. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pre-calculated calibration plane is defined by measuring a calibration pattern.

7. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second optical element comprises a mirror.

8. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second optical element comprises a prism.

9. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein one of the at least two differing views is obtained at a low angle of view.

10. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the sensor and the second optical element are positioned to receive light from different angles relative to the calibration plane.

11. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the sensor comprises a charged coupled device array.

12. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the sensor comprises a complementary metal oxide semiconductor device array.

13. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the triangulation method comprises measurements derived from the at least two differing views include grayscale edge detection to locate ball positions.

14. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the measurements include threshold analysis.

15. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first optical element comprises a lens.

16. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first optical element comprises a pin-hole lens.

17. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first optical element comprises a plurality of lens elements.

18. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first optical element comprises a telecentric lens.

19. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ball array devices comprise ball grid array devices.

20. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ball array devices comprise bump on wafer devices.

21. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processor comprises a personal computer.

22. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein the sensor includes a solid state sensor array.

23. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 wherein one of the views comprises a segment having a crescent shape.

24. A three dimensional inspection apparatus for ball array devices having a plurality of balls, the apparatus comprising:

a) an illuminator positioned to produce reflections from the ball array device;

b) a sensor disposed to receive light at a first angle relative to the ball array device;

c) a first optical element positioned to transmit light to the sensor, where the sensor obtains a first view of the ball array device;

d) a second optical element disposed to receive light at a second angle different from the first angle and to transmit a second view of the ball array device to the sensor;

e) a frame grabber coupled to the sensor to transmit image information from the sensor; and

f) a processor, coupled to receive the image information, where the processor applies triangulation calculations to measurements of the image information so as to calculate a three dimensional position of at least one ball with reference to a pre-calculated calibration plane.

25. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the calibration plane comprises a coordinate system

having X, Y and Z axes and wherein an X measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

26. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the calibration plane comprises a coordinate system having X, Y and Z axes and wherein an XY measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

27. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the calibration plane comprises a coordinate system having X, Y and Z axes and wherein a Y measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

28. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the pre-calculated calibration plane is defined by measuring a calibration pattern.

29. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the second optical element comprises a mirror.

30. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the second optical element comprises a prism.

31. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the illuminator comprises a ring light.

32. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the illuminator comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes.

33. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the illuminator comprises reflected light.

34. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the sensor comprises a charged coupled device array.

35. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the sensor comprises a complementary metal oxide semiconductor device array.

36. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the ball array devices comprise ball grid array devices.

37. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the ball array devices comprise bump on wafer devices.

38. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the measurements from the first image and the second image include grayscale edge detection to locate ball positions.

39. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the measurements include threshold analysis.

40. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the first optical element comprises a lens.

41. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the first optical element comprises a pin-hole lens.

42. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the first optical element comprises a plurality of lens elements.

43. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the first optical element comprises a telecentric lens.

44. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the illuminator comprises a ring light.

45. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the sensor includes a solid state sensor array.

46. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the processor comprises a personal computer.

47. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 wherein the second optical element reflects a view to the sensor where at least one ball of the ball array device exhibits a crescent shape.

48. A three dimensional inspection apparatus for ball array devices having a plurality of balls, the apparatus comprising:

a) an illuminator disposed to illuminate a ball array device;

b) a sensor disposed to receive light at a first angle relative to the ball array device, and wherein the sensor includes a solid state sensor array;

c) a first optical element positioned to transmit light to the sensor, where the sensor obtains a first view of the ball array device;

d) a second optical element disposed to receive light at a second angle different from the first angle and to transfer a second view of the ball array device to the sensor;

e) an image acquisition apparatus coupled to the sensor to transmit image information representing the first view and the second view; and

f) a processor, coupled to receive the image information, where the processor applies triangulation calculations to measurements of the image information so as to calculate a three dimensional position of at least one ball with reference to a pre-calculated calibration plane, wherein the calibration plane comprises a

coordinate system having X, Y and Z axes, and wherein an X measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

49. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein an XY measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

50. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein a Y measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

51. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the pre-calculated calibration plane is defined by measuring a calibration pattern.

52. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the measurements include grayscale edge detection to locate ball positions.

53. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the measurements include threshold analysis.

54. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the illuminator comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes.

55. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the illuminator comprises reflected light.

56. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the ball array devices comprise ball grid array devices.

57. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the ball array devices comprise bump on wafer devices.

58. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the solid state sensor array includes a charged coupled device array.

59. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the solid state sensor array includes a complementary metal oxide semiconductor array.

60. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the second optical element comprises a mirror.

61. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the second optical element comprises a prism.

62. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48

wherein the second view comprises a segment having a crescent shape.

63. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the image acquisition apparatus comprises a frame grabber.

64. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the processor comprises a personal computer.

65. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the first optical element comprises a lens.

66. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the first optical element comprises a pin-hole lens.

67. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the first optical element comprises a plurality of lens elements.

68. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 wherein the first optical element comprises a telecentric lens.

69. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a diffuser disposed to provide illumination for

imaging of a perimeter of the ball array device.

70. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 24 further comprising a diffuser disposed to provide illumination for imaging of a perimeter of the ball array device.

71. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 48 further comprising a diffuser disposed to provide illumination for imaging of a perimeter of the ball array device.

72. A three dimensional inspection apparatus for ball array devices having a plurality of balls, wherein the ball array device is positioned in a fixed optical system, the apparatus comprising:

a) an illumination apparatus positioned for illuminating the ball array device;

b) a camera disposed in a fixed focus position relative to the ball array device for taking a first image of the ball array device to obtain a circular doughnut shape image from at least one ball;

c) an optical element disposed in a fixed focus position relative to the ball array device for transmitting a second image of the ball array device to the camera to obtain a side view image of the at least one ball; and

d) a processor, coupled to receive the first image and the second

image, that applies triangulation calculations on related measurements of the first image and the second image to calculate a three dimensional position of the at least one ball with reference to a pre-calculated calibration plane.

73. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the second image comprises a segment having a crescent shape.

74. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the calibration plane comprises a coordinate system having X, Y and Z axes and wherein an X measurement value is proportional to a Z measurement value.

75. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the triangulation calculations are based on determining a center of the ball in the first image and determining a ball top location in the second image.

76. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the pre-calculated calibration plane is defined by measuring a calibration pattern.

77. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the optical element comprises a mirror that reflects

light between the ball array device and the camera.

78. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the second image is obtained at a low angle of view.

79. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the camera and the optical element are fixed at different angles relative to the calibration plane.

80. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the camera comprises a charged coupled device array.

81. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the measurements from the first image and the second image include grayscale edge detection to locate ball positions.

82. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the illumination apparatus further comprises a diffuser.

83. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the ball array devices comprise ball grid array devices.

84. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the ball array devices comprise bump on wafer devices.

85. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the camera comprises a complementary metal oxide semiconductor device array.

86. The three dimensional inspection apparatus of claim 72 wherein the triangulation calculations include threshold analysis.